

Testimony of Robert L. Solomon in Support of HB 148
House of Representatives Local Government Committee
15 January 2013

Madame Chair, Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert L. Solomon and I reside in Helena. I am here today to speak in support of HB 148. I have a general class amateur radio license with the federally assigned call sign K7HLN and have been licensed since April, 1995. Most of the time since then I have volunteered as the emergency coordinator for the Lewis and Clark County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES).

Many licensed amateur radio operators in Montana and throughout the country volunteer their services and personal radio equipment as auxiliary communicators for a broad range of governmental and voluntary agencies such as law enforcement, fire-rescue services, hospitals, the National Weather Service, Red Cross, Salvation Army and others. Operating mobile radio stations from our personal vehicles is a primary method by which we provide those services.

This bill clarifies that amateur radio operators are to be exempted from locally enacted ordinances regulating the use of devices such as cell phones in motor vehicles. Some of the local ordinances have not been clear on this exemption, which has been of concern to the amateur radio community. I strongly support the proposed amendment to current law.

The bill also clarifies zoning concerns regarding the erection of amateur radio station towers. I support that amendment to current law.

I urge “Do Pass” for this bill.